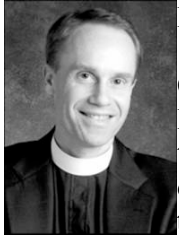


GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
THE WEEKLY EPISTLE
Epiphany I at Grace~ 10 January 2010



Dear Friends,

One of the most popular stories in the Bible is the journey of the Magi, otherwise known as the Wise Men from the East, or the Three Kings of the Orient. One reason the tale resonates with us is because we understand human life to be a journey. To be on a journey, it's helpful to know two things, at least: your point of origin, and your destination. "From whence hast thou come, and whither thou goest?" is the traditional, poetic rendering of life's two most important questions. People of faith answer both with God; God is not only the source of life, but also the goal. The problem is, we often get lost along the way. We wander off the right path or perhaps never got on it in the first place. We come to doubt that any one path is better than another, or whether any of them lead anywhere at all. At such times we envy those who see a star in the sky to guide them.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors," written by Gian-Carlo Menotti is a beautiful, musical telling of what just one night in the long journey of the three Kings might have been like. This coming Sunday, January 10, 4 pm we will offer it in the church for all of us who are on the journey to Bethlehem, which is to be on a pilgrimage into the presence of God. Don't miss it!

See you on Sunday.

The Rev. J. Donald Waring,
Rector

9:00 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children at 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

Nursery care for children ages 0-3

Sunday School for children during the sermon

4:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong with "Amahl and the Night Visitors"

Music: The Adult Choir

Solosists: Lily Xiao Xia Overmyer and Tami Petty

6:00 p.m.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Ted Pardoe

Music: Hymns with piano, instrumentalists

SUNDAY:

MORNING ADULT EDUCATION - "Don't Walk By" is a month-long effort organized by The Rescue Alliance, a partnership of faith-based ministries that are focused on offering homeless men, women and children an alternative to living on the streets. In January of 2010 an army of hundreds of volunteers - including parishioners of Grace Church - will fan out across Manhattan to offer every single street person food, blankets, but most importantly a complete "holistic residential recovery program that offers them new life in Christ" and educational, vocational and housing solutions. The Rev. Linda Bartholomew will show a short video clip and tell us about Grace Church's participation in the program. 10 am in the Reception Room. Coffee is served. Come join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES this week at both the 9 and 11 am services. All children ages 4-8 are welcome to attend. At 9 am, parents should drop their children off at the classrooms near Tuttle Hall. Children then rejoin their parents in time to receive Communion together. At 11 am, parents and children begin together in the church, and children follow the crucifer to their classes during the sermon. 11 am Children will return to the church this week in time to receive Communion with their parents.

NEWCOMERS - Our current round of newcomer classes continues today in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 10 a.m.

If you are new to Grace Church and looking for a way to learn more about the Episcopal Church and connect with other parishioners and clergy, these conversations will be an excellent way to do so.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP resumed meeting on Sunday, January 3, at 5 pm in the Third Floor Conference Room.

EVENING ADULT EDUCATION - Tonight we continue the sessions entitled *Conversations with Scripture*. Immediately following the 6 p.m. Eucharist, we meet in the Reception Room for refreshments. Then from 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. the preacher of the evening will facilitate a deeper look at the Scripture lessons that we heard in worship.

THIS WEEK:

BACH AT NOON - The organ compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach are played between 12:20 - 12:50 p.m. every Tuesday through Friday.

CHORAL EVENSONG with the Junior Choristers on Tuesdays is now on break until January 19th.

THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets each week at 10:15 am in the Reception Room. Newcomers are always welcome.

WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS - The next round of Small Group Bible Studies will begin on Wednesday, February 3. Small Groups are an excellent way to connect with other people at Grace Church, and connect with Christ himself, who promises to be in the midst of two or three who gather in his name. For more information, contact the Rev. Benjamin Thomas at bthomas@gracechurchnyc.org.

FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES:

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACK ANGELS - We are creating a new schedule for Sunday School Snack Angels for 2010 and we're looking for some new faces! Snack Angels are in charge of supplying juice boxes and packaged snacks for one month at a time (4 Sundays). It is a simple way to get involved with our children's ministry program, and the kids will thank you for it! Contact Maura Hooper to volunteer: mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000, ext. 113.

PARISH LIFE:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - This year's Nominating Committee for new Vestry members has been formed. Thanks to Charlie Johnston, Doug Skrypek, Kevin Rotheroe, Mary Connelly, and Doug Evans for agreeing to serve. According to our parish by-laws the Committee is to consist of the Warden not up for reelection (Charlie), two Vestry members (Doug Skrypek and Kevin), two parishioners named by the Rector (Mary Connelly and Doug Evans), and the Rector (Don Waring) who serves as an ex-officio

member. The committee wishes to thank those who suggested names for consideration over the past month. We will announce the slate of nominees next Sunday.

THE 202nd ANNUAL MEETING of Grace Church will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, February 7 immediately following the 11 a.m. service. A delicious lunch (for which there is a \$5.00 per person suggested donation) will be served. Reports will be given by the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, the Head of Grace Church School, the Senior Warden, and the Rector.

GIVE TO GRACE ONLINE - Our website is now capable of receiving online donations through all major credit cards. Make payments on your annual pledge, adopt a pipe, support outreach and music, put flowers on the altar, help restore the building all through our secure connection. Go to www.gracechurchnyc.org follow the links.

2010 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN
WHAT DOES YOUR FINANCIAL PLEDGE DO?
Consider the following. Your annual pledge: Says a tangible “thank you” to God for all the blessings of your life, Supports the GO Project, a tutoring and social service program for 300 at-risk, public school students and their families, Keeps the church building open seven days a week for anyone who wants to come inside, warm-up, pray, rest, or meditate, Grows a resilient and reasonable faith in people of all ages through our ambitious music program and Christian education classes for children and adults, Spreads the good news of Jesus Christ through our presence and worship services, and Employs 12 full-time and 5 part-time people.

MANY THANKS to everyone who has so far made a financial pledge in support of the Lord’s work through Grace Church in the year 2010. So far 198 households have pledged for a total of \$749,342. Unfortunately, we have fallen behind where we need to be. The Vestry is hoping to pass a budget this Tuesday that is based on \$900,000 in pledges (last year was \$912,000). If you haven’t yet made a financial pledge, now is the time to do so in order to avoid further, painful cuts to an already austere budget. If you make a pledge, remember: you can pay it off in 52-weekly installments, and you can now give to Grace Church online. Please contact Joe Manzella at jmanzella@gracechurchnyc.org for more information.

THANKS FROM THE GO PROJECT - The GO Project gives thanks to Grace Church for 41 wonderful years of support. Thanks to the generosity of Grace Church, the GO Project has grown to serve over 300 children year round and provides them with the opportunities to succeed. We are proud to report that: On average, GO students gained 4 months in reading and math over the course of the summer program. 98% of students passed the New York State Math and Reading tests- students all tracked to fail when they entered our program. Over 90% of graduating GO fifth graders attended their top choice middle school. Thank you to Grace Church for your commitment to the GO Project. Together we are creating a brighter future for our community’s children.

ADOPT A PIPE! - You can help build the new Grace Church organ by “adopting” a pipe to commemorate or honor a loved one, or celebrate a significant occasion in your life. A special parchment suitable for framing will be sent to the person you designate, and a permanent record will be kept at the church that this particular part of the instrument bears the name you choose. Brochures are available

SCALE MODEL - A magnificent model (1/20 scale) of the Grace Church chancel, showing the Bicentennial Organ, will be on view in the Honor Room. Stop by and peer into the future of Grace Church!

SCAFFOLDING - The scaffolding in the south transept represents the next phase of restoring the interiors of Grace Church. Over the next few months workers will be assessing

the condition of plaster, stained glass, and stone, and making necessary repairs. This work is possible thanks to all those who have contributed to the Bicentennial Capital Campaign.

THE 20’S/30’S GROUP meets on the first Sunday of each month after the 11 am service for brunch at a local restaurant. For more information contact Maura Hooper at mhooper@gracechurchnyc.org.

A CALL FOR HOSPITALITY - The baked goods and other delicious nibbles that bless our after-service fellowship times are the gift of parishioners who volunteer to bring them. For anyone who wishes to participate in this much needed ministry of hospitality, please visit bulletin board to the left of the ladies room door. please visit the board and sign up for the service of your choice and the hospitality committee will be in touch with you shortly!

BAPTISM - The next date for Baptism is Saturday evening, April 3rd at the Easter Vigil, and Sunday, May 23, at the 11 am service. Please arrange your family plans around one of these times, and contact Ted Pardoe at tpardoe@gracechurchnyc.org.

OUTREACH

FIRST-MONDAY OUTREACH: On the first Monday of each month, the Outreach Committee is seeking to build a community of people concerned about those who are homeless and hungry. The next meeting is Monday, February 1, at 6:30 pm we will begin in the church for a brief prayer service, and then move to Tuttle Hall for a light supper and sharing of options for serving the poor in New York City and beyond. Please use the Parish House entrance and arrive by 6:30 pm. Bring some cans of food for our food collection if you can do so. Call Linda Bartholomew for more information 212-254-2000, ext 114 or RSVP to outreach@gracechurchnyc.org

ODDS AND ENDS

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are once again available for the 11 a.m. service. Ask an usher and he or she will be glad to assist you.

ABOUT THE ORGAN - The pipe organ that you see in the west gallery and south transept is no longer in service. Installed by the Herman Schlicker Co. in 1965, this Grace Church organ was a daring attempt to achieve a certain musical style, using experimental materials and the latest technology of the day. Sadly, these goals were only partially achieved. Neither the materials nor the technology proved worthy for the long haul, and the instrument was unable to exploit the unique acoustical properties of Grace Church. Recent electrical malfunctions have posed a fire hazard and are too costly to repair. The Vestry of Grace Church has commissioned Taylor & Boody Organbuilders to create for Grace Church a new pipe organ using the time honored methods of the craft that have allowed the life spans of organs in Europe to be measured in centuries, not decades. The organ that you hear today is a 20-year old digital instrument manufactured by Allen Organs. It will bridge the gap between the old organ and the new.

ARE YOU OUT OF WORK? Or do you know someone who is looking for work? The US Census Bureau has asked us to remind people that they are currently interviewing for temporary full and part time positions with hourly rates between \$13 and \$20. Call 866 861-2010 for more information, or go to www.2010censusjobs.gov to take a practice test.

PRAYER LIST - If you would like to have a name added to the prayer list, please email Bill Nave: bnave@gracechurchnyc.org or 212-254-2000, ext 100 by Tuesday. Names will be read during the services for four weeks unless notified otherwise.